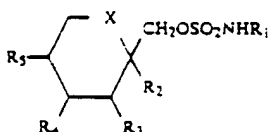


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method of treating obesity in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment at least one weight-loss promoting anticonvulsant and at least one compound that enhances the activity of norepinephrine and/or dopamine in amounts such that said treatment is effected.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said anticonvulsant is of the formula (I):

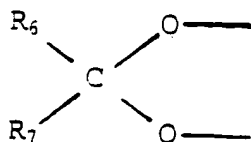


I

wherein X is CH_2 or oxygen,

R_1 is hydrogen or alkyl,

R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and R_5 are independently hydrogen or lower alkyl, and when X is CH_2 , R_4 and R_5 can be alkene groups joined to form a benzene ring and when X is oxygen, R_2 and R_3 and/or R_4 and R_5 together can be a methylenedioxy group of the following formula (II):



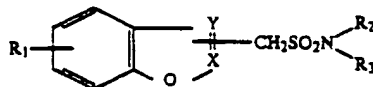
II

wherein

R_6 and R_7 are the same or different and are hydrogen, lower alkyl or are alkyl and are joined to form a cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl ring.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein R_1 is hydrogen or a C_1 - C_4 alkyl, straight and branched chain, and R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 and R_7 are a C_1 - C_3 alkyl, straight or branched chain.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said anticonvulsant is of the formula (III):



wherein R_1 is hydrogen or a halogen atom, R_2 and R_3 are the same or different and are each hydrogen or an alkyl having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and one of X and Y is a carbon

atom and another is a nitrogen atom, provided that the group $-\text{CH}_2\text{SO}_2\text{NR}_2\text{R}_3$ is bonded to the carbon atom of either of X and Y, or an alkali metal salt thereof.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said anticonvulsant is zonisamide or topiramate.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said compound that enhances the activity of norepinephrine and/or dopamine effects said enhancement via uptake inhibition.

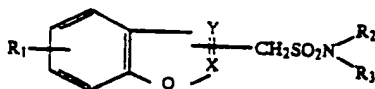
7. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said compound that enhances the activity of norepinephrine and/or dopamine is bupropion, Atomoxetine or Reboxetine.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said anticonvulsant and said compound that enhances the activity of norepinephrine and/or dopamine are administered separately.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said anticonvulsant and said compound that enhances the activity of norepinephrine and/or dopamine are administered concurrently.

10. (Original) A method of reducing the risk of hypertension, diabetes or dyslipidaemia in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal in need of such reduction at least one weight-loss promoting anticonvulsant and at least one compound that enhances the activity of norepinephrine and/or dopamine in amounts such that said reduction is effected.

11. (Original) A method of treating obesity in mammal comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a compound of formula (III):



wherein R₁ is hydrogen or a halogen atom, R₂ and R₃ are the same or different and are each hydrogen or an alkyl having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and one of X and Y is a carbon atom and another is a nitrogen atom, provided that the group -CH₂SO₂NR₂R₃ is bonded to the carbon atom of either of X and Y, or an alkali metal salt thereof, in an amount sufficient to effect said treatment.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11 wherein said compound is zonisamide.

13. (Original) A composition comprising at least one weight loss-promoting anticonvulsant and at least one compound that enhances the activity of norepinephrine and/or dopamine.

14. (Original) The composition according to claim 13 wherein said compound is in dosage unit form.

15. (Original) The composition according to claim 14 wherein said composition is in the form of a tablet or capsule.

16. (Original) The composition according to claim 13 wherein said anticonvulsant is zonisamide or topiramate.

17. (Original) The composition according to claim 13 wherein said compound that enhances the activity of norepinephrine and/or dopamine is bupropion.

18. (New) A method of reducing weight in an overweight subject, said method comprising: administering to an overweight subject a pharmaceutical composition

comprising zonisamide, in an amount effective to reduce weight in said subject, wherein said weight loss is significant and sustained.

19. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein said effective amount of zonisamide is in the range of about 50 to about 1000 mg/day.

20. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein said effective amount of zonisamide is in the range of about 100 to about 600 mg/day.

21. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein said overweight subject is an obese subject.

22. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of oral, parenteral, topical, injection and rectal administration.

23. (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is administered orally to said subject.

24. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is administered in combination with another therapeutic method commonly used to treat overweight.

25. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is administered in combination with a hypocaloric diet or exercise.

26. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is administered in combination with orlistat, phentermine, sibutramine, topiramate, or sibutramine hydrochloride.

27. (New) A method of treating eating disorders in a subject in need of such treatment, said method comprising: administering to a subject a pharmaceutical composition comprising zonisamide, in an amount effective to treat eating disorders.

28. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein said eating disorders are binge-eating disorder, bulimia nervosa, or anorexia nervosa.

29. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein said effective amount of zonisamide is in the range of about 50 to about 1000 mg/day.

30. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein said effective amount of zonisamide is in the range of about 100 to about 600 mg/day.

31. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of oral, parenteral, topical, injection and rectal administration.

32. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is administered orally to said subject.

33. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is administered in combination with another therapeutic agent commonly used to treat eating disorders.

34. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein said therapeutic agent is fluoxetine, topiramate, or orlistat.

35. (New) A method of reducing weight in an overweight subject, said method comprising: administering to an overweight subject a pharmaceutical composition comprising zonisamide in an amount effective to induce weight loss in said subject, wherein the induction of weight loss is sustained during the dosing regimen.

36. (New) The method according to claim 35, wherein said effective amount of zonisamide is in the range of about 50 to about 1000 mg/day.

37. (New) The method according to claim 36, wherein said effective amount of zonisamide is in the range of about 100 to about 600 mg/day.

38. (New) The method according to claim 35, wherein said overweight subject is an obese subject.

39. (New) The method according to claim 35, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of oral, parenteral, topical, injection and rectal administration.

40. (New) The method according to claim 39, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is administered orally to said subject.

41. (New) The method according to claim 35, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is administered in combination with another therapeutic method commonly used to treat overweight.

42. (New) The method according to claim 41, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is administered in combination with a hypocaloric diet or exercise.

43. (New) The method according to claim 42, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is administered in combination with orlistat, phentermine, sibutramine, topiramate, or sibutramine hydrochloride.